

Biography

Dr. Coon graduated cum laude from Michigan State University in 1977 and went on to graduate from Wayne State University School of Law in 1980. He has spent his career holding polluters and wrong-doers accountable for their actions. After a brief stint practicing law with Eldon Butzbaugh, Jr. in his home town of St. Joseph, Michigan, he went on to become a trial lawyer with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Detroit. From there he went to St. Croix, U.S.V.I. to work with the Law Offices of John K. Dema focusing on class action environmental and civil rights litigation. Dr. Coon opened his own practice in St. Croix in 1984.. The Law Offices of John R Coon evolved into Coon & Sanford and, later, Coon, Sanford and Amerling. Dr. Coon represented labor unions in the Caribbean and began to play an increasing role in national trial teams representing asbestos product manufacturers, trying cases around the country. From approximately 1987 Dr. Coon began representing clients in CERCLA/RCRA litigation. In the early 1990s he moved his family to Brunswick, Maine, and became a partner in the firm of Amerling and Burns, P.A. In 1995 he formed a new law firm, Wright and Coon, P.A., specializing in the national practice of toxic tort and related actions.

Dr. Coon left the full-time practice of law in 2000 and focused on the “science side” of environmental litigation by enrolling in the Natural Resources and Environmental Studies PhD program at the University of New Hampshire. While attending and teaching at UNH, he worked for a variety of law firms as a consultant on various cases, including the Deepwater Horizon litigation, and received his PhD in 2012. Dr. Coon is still affiliated faculty in the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment at UNH.

The Law Offices of John R Coon, PhD, is dedicated to the representation of clients who demonstrate and foster a sustainable approach to activities and behaviors that impact the resilience of ecosystems. The firm believes that there are businesses and enterprises that can be part of an overall solution to the largely negative environmental trends that plague our nation. By the same token, Dr. Coon is never hesitant to use his natural resources and environmental science education and his years of experience with complex environmental class actions to work with communities and law firms to hold polluters responsible for their actions and restore/remediate even the most challenging and complex sites. Further, the firm participates in the facilitation of CERCLA allocation efforts designed to get responsible parties to ultimately agree to remediation/restoration commitments.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

Academic Papers and Conference Proceedings

2014 Regier, H., J. Coon, J. Jackson. 2014. “Towards a balance between responsibilities and rights to the ecosystemic goods and services of our Great Lakes — St. Lawrence River basin.” *Journal of Great Lakes Research* (2014). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jglr.2014.10.003>.

John R. Coon, “Can We Get There from Here? Toward an Integrated Ecosystem Approach to the Management of the Bay of Fundy/Gulf of Maine.” (PhD diss. University of New Hampshire, 2012).

Coon, J. and M.L. Becker. 2007. “Can We Get There From Here: Toward an Integrated Ecosystem Approach to Governance in the Gulf of Maine Region.” In G. W. Pohle, P. G.Wells, and S. J. Rolston (Eds). 2007. *Challenges in Environmental Management in the Bay of Fundy- Gulf of Maine. Proceedings of the 7th Bay of Fundy Science Workshop*, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 24–27 October 2006. Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership

Technical Report No. 3. Bay of Fundy Ecosystem Partnership, Wolfville, NS: 22 pp.

Coon, J. 2005. "A Survey and Synthesis of Significant U.S. Law and Priorities Influencing Governance in the Gulf of Maine Region: A Summary Report for the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment." Submitted November 1, 2005 pursuant to a grant funded by the Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment: 61pp. www.gulfofmaine.org/council/publications/US_Law_and_Priorities_Gulf_of_Maine.pdf.

Becker, M.L., J. Coon and J. Williamson. 2001. "Bridging the Gap: A Model for Building Trust and Collaboration Between Marine Resource Regulators and Stakeholders." In *Globalization and Water Resources: The Changing Value of Water: Proceedings of the AWRA/University of Dundee International Specialty Conference on Globalization and Water Management*. August 5 – 9, 2001, Dundee Scotland, UK: AWRA, August 2001.

Becker, M.L., J. Coon, A. Rosenberg, J. Williamson, M.B. Tooley and D. Goethel. "Bridging the GAP to Build Collaborative Research, Science Communication and Industry Participation in New England Fisheries Management" in David Witherell, ed. *Managing Our Nation's Fisheries: Past, Present and Future: Proceedings of a Conference on Fisheries Management in the United States*. Washington, D.C.: November 13-15, 2003. NOAA, 2004:225.

Non-Academic Publications

Coon, J. and E.L. Butler. 1998. "Petroleum Hydrocarbon Fingerprinting: A Primer for Non-Chemists," Defense Research Institute, Newsletter of the Toxic Torts and Environmental Law Committee, Spring 1998, Chicago, IL.

1997 Coon, John R and Tyler N. Kolle. *Insurance Coverage Law in Maine*. Eau Claire: NBI, 1997.

1996 Coon, John R. and W. John Amerling, *Construction Law in the U.S. Virgin Islands*. Eau Claire: NBI 1996.

Invited Presentations

Coon, J. 2016. "Great Laurentian Spring Redux: Lessons from the Great Lakes Governance Regime 1968-93." 8th National Summit on Coastal and Estuarine Restoration and 25th Biennial Meeting of The Coastal Society. December 10-15, 2016. New Orleans, LA.

Coon, J and M.L. Becker. 2015. "Human Dignity and Sustainable Development: Using the Policy Sciences Analytical Framework to Assess and Implement Adaptive, Ecosystem-Based Governance." Policy Sciences Annual Institute, November 12, 2015. World Bank, Washington D.C.

Coon, J., M.L. Becker, T. Lee. 2015 "Using the Policy Sciences Analytical Framework in the Assessment, Implementation and Monitoring of Adaptive Ecosystem-Based Approaches to Resource Management." International Congress for Conservation Biology. European Congress for Conservation Biology. August 3, 2015. Montpellier, France.